

# AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY: GLASS HALF EMPTY, GLASS HALF FULL OR BOTH? THE BATTLE OF INTERPRETATION

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DR. DAVID CANTON

DIRECTOR

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

# WHAT IS THIS?

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- How does one interpret African American History?



# WHERE TO BEGIN?

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- 1619, Virginia Race Based Slavery
- West Africa
- “Slave”, Object or “Enslaved” Subject
- 1500s, Spanish North America, Florida Esteban, Little Steven



# RECONSTRUCTION 1865-1875

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- “Lost Cause” Ku Klux Klan
- Black Reconstruction, W.E.B. DuBois 1935 “Propaganda and History”
- American History Textbooks



# SANITIZED OR UNSANITIZED?

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- Martin Luther King, Jr. “I Have a Dream” 1963 “Content of Character”
- [MLK and Black Power?](#)
- Memphis, TN Garbage Strike 1968



# 1776 COMMISSION

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- “When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American as t fall heir. This note was a promise to all. men yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Martin Luther King, JR. “I Have a Dream”

# I HAVE A DREAM

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- **In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check.** When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American as t fall heir. This note was a promise to all. men yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. **It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds"** King, "I Have a Dream"

# CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ONLY FOR BLACK PEOPLE

- African American Activism and Black Institutions, Fannie Lou Hamer, MFDP
- Ella Baker, NAACP, SCLC, SNCC “More Than a Hamburger”

Federal Government, Great Society Programs

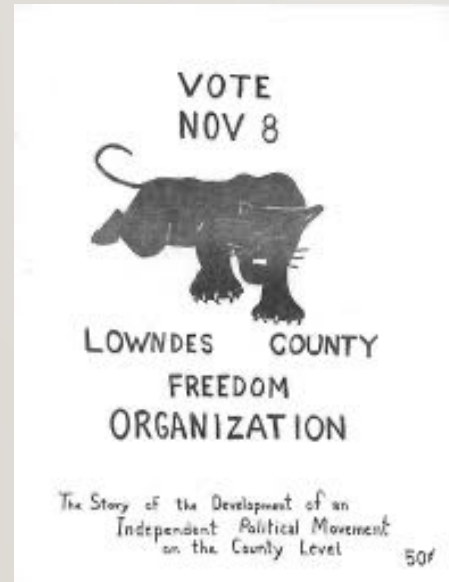




# CIVIL RIGHTS/BLACK POWER 1945-1975

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- Robert Williams, Self Defense, Radio Free Dixie
- Lowndes County Freedom Organization
- Black Panther Party



# POST 1965 AMERICA SYSTEMIC RACISM OR NOT?

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Black Progress, 1965 Voting Rights Act/ 2013 Shelby v Holder

Gap Stats, Housing, Education, Health Care, Income, Mortality Rates,



# GAP STATS

## RATE VS NUMBERS

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- Unemployment Rate Since 1972 Black rate twice the white rate, Higher number of unemployed whites.
- Poverty Rate, White 8% Black 17% / Twice the number of poor whites
- Home Ownership 75% White Black 43%
- Mortality Rates. White 76 years old Black 70 years old
- Income white family 81,000 Black family 52,000
- Why do these gaps exist?